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Methods

I conducted an exhaustive search of potential references on Web of Science, Google Scholar, and through personal contacts, examining reference lists, looking through colleague's libraries, etc. Based on discovery rates I estimate this list contains >90% of all highly cited references.

Citation counts were obtained from the Web of Science "Cited Reference Search" feature since this includes books, databases, gray literature, and papers in journals not indexed under the regular "Search" option. Total citations were summed over all cited variants (e.g. page numbers, years, missing initials, editions of books, etc.) that could be clearly attributed to the article in question. For older references, and books, e.g. Beverton and Holt (1957), this would sometimes involve dozens of pages of search results. For newer references in well known journals there would often be only one or two entries under "Cited Reference Search". References were included in the main list when they reached 500 citations, or for obscure

references, when they were first brought to my attention. Note that Google Scholar citation totals (which include citations by non-peerreviewed articles, and papers in obscure journals) are about double those in Web of Science.

References were excluded if their primary focus was not on fish or fisheries but was more general (e.g. Walters 1986 Adaptive management of renewable resources; Hilborn & Mangel 1997 The ecological detective). References were also excluded for some genetics and vertebrate embryological development papers even if they were based on fish, if the primary focus was on identifying a gene or vertebrate development pathway, and not on solving a fish or fisheriesspecific problem (e.g. Amores et al. 1998 Zebrafish hox clusters and vertebrate genome evolution. Science 282:1711-1714).

Periodically during the year I check the top few papers to see if they exceed the 500 or 35 per year thresholds, and if they do I add these to the list with a note at the top under "Newly added". However, a thorough update of all citation counts is only conducted once a year (next update July 2014) to reorder papers, include new references, and exclude papers that have dropped below the 35 per year threshold.

Compiled by Trevor A. Branch, tbranch@uw.edu, website: http://fish.washington.edu/people/branch/, Twitter: @TrevorABranch

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